## FOOTBALLAGE EXTRA

Back in the August issue, iScot Magazine brought you the story of the incredible rise of Dundee United Women's Football Club (DUWFC). In their inaugural season, in 2016, the team had achieved a league and cup double with a remarkable 100% record en route to winning the SWFL2 title and gaining promotion. They then followed up that outstanding season by finishing 2nd in SWFL1 in 2017, despite only losing twice. When our August issue was published, just as the second half of the 2018 season was about to commence following the summer break, United were three points behind SWFL1 league leaders East Fife. But, having played one game less, DUWFC were still on course for another memorable season that

would, hopefully, end with a league title and promotion to SWPL2. Well, it's always good to be able to update on positive stories and, happily, this is one of those occasions...





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N OCTOBER 21st United went into their final game against Cove Rangers requiring only a draw to win the league. As it was the last game of the season, the fixture was scheduled for Tannadice Park instead of the teams usual venue across the street at the GA Arena. Fittingly, in front of a crowd of around 450, United relished their grander surroundings and made absolutely certain of the title by winning the game comfortably 7–2. That meant they finished the season with a not-too-shabby record of: Played 22, Won 18, Drawn 3, Lost 1, Goal Difference +95, Points 57. That impressive record was enough to see off the challenge of East Fife, who finished the season as runners-up, four points behind, and thus secure the second championship title in three seasons for DUWFC.

The steady progress of the team has also seen international recognition for a number of the younger players. Goalkeeper Aaliyah-Jay Meach and midfielder Philippa McCallum both played in all three recent UEFA qualifiers for Scotland U17, with 15-year old forward Neve Guthrie selected for the U16 squad too.

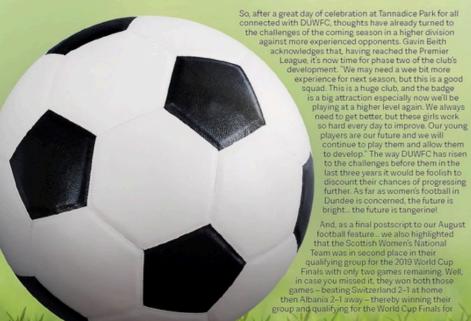
Justine Mitchell, who had the initial vision for DUWFC when she was on the board of Dundee United, now keeps a watchful eye on proceedings purely as a fan. She declared herself "very proud" after the title clinching game, while Head Coach Gavin Beith said he was happy with the way his team handled the occasion. He reflected, "We've only lost three league games in

three years, and the single defeat this season was when we had to play with only 10 players due to holiday commitments! The girls have done exceptionally well and are a credit to themselves and the club."











the first time ever. This piece of history-making follows hot on the heels of the squad's 2017 appearance at their first ever major finals, the European Championships, and further demonstrates the incredible growth and development of girl's and women's football in Scotland. Ironically, next year's World Cup Finals will be held in France – 21 years after the Scottish men's team last appeared in the World Cup Finals... in France! The Scottish Government has provided an £80,000 bursary to allow the non-professional players in the squad to

France 2019 promises to be an exciting time for the Scottish Women's National Team prepare full-time from January until the tournament, which kicks off on June 7th 2019. Scotland's women, who are currently ranked 19th in the world, will discover their group stage opponents when the draw is held in Paris on December 8th. France 2019 promises to be an exciting time for the Scottish Women's National Team - Vive (Ecosse!

